

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA, WILL HOLD A WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR
ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY,
MAY 05, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Caesar, Mr. Price, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Gonder, Mr. Messer, Mr. Zurschmiede and President Jeff Gahan.

Mr. Gahan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and stated that they were there to discuss immediate and future capital expenditures of the New Albany Fire Department as well as the New Albany Police Department.

Carl Malysz gave an overview of information that will be presented this evening by the Fire Department, Police Department and Street Department. He stated that he will also be speaking on behalf of Mayor England to address the council with respect to the resolution to authorize these expenditures.

Chief Juliot presented a portfolio of needs from the Fire Department and reviewed the information with the board. Said portfolio is on file with the City Clerk's office. He also introduced the members of RCS, the company that performed a study of their communications system, and the engineers that put together the feasibility study for the fire department for up-grading their system. He asked Capt. Boyer to address the council regarding his study.

Captain Boyer addressed the council regarding work he has done with RCS and Integrated. He gave background on the communications systems used by the fire departments through history. He informed the council that one of the most common reasons for fire fighter death in emergency situations is due to communications problems. He presented a study that was done by RCS giving an in-depth review of the problems with the New Albany Fire Department communications system. He cited the age of the system, which was implemented in the 1970's, as the main problem due to it not being up to date. Also, they are operating on a single channel signal frequency system, which causes large problems when there is a sever operation such as the Steinert Fire this morning, the radios that they are currently using are not water proof. He stated that after being inside at the Steinert's fire his radio no longer worked due to the water and had he been trapped or injured he would not have been able to call our for help.

Chief Juliot presented a radio which they would like to put into place with the Fire Department which can be strapped on under the coat and provides a hands free mike that would be close to the mouth so that if they are injured or confused they do not have to worry about finding which pocket they have stored their radio.

Captain Boyer explained how the emergency button works on the proposed radio system that they currently do not have. He discussed other items that they have provided for the system including a CD of radio traffic during some of the department's most serious runs. He asked on behalf of the fire fighters of the New Albany Fire Department that they appropriate the money needed to keep them safe.

Chief Crabtree stated that his most critical issue is man-power and he is working on getting recruits through the academy in Gary, Indiana. He stated that his next problem is the police fleet. He explained that the insurance company informed them that they may lose their umbrella coverage due to the high mileage on the police cars. He addressed the issues with outdated equipment on the cars and the need to make a decision on this as soon as possible.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if there were cars that had to have bottoms welded on due to the age of the car

Chief Crabtree said yes and now they are running into a lot of issues with repairing the front ends. He stated that the program was designed to have the cars rotated out every five years and that is not being done.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about adding motorcycles.

Chief Crabtree explained that it would save on gas mileage but stated that right now with the man power issues it would be more of a luxury than an asset to the department.

Mr. Gonder asked about the feasibility of hybrid cars.

Chief Crabtree stated that they this option has not been tested and he is not sure how they would work in police business.

Mickey Thompson stated that they currently have two street sweepers and on the average they regularly have one that is down. He presented information regarding a three wheel, conveyor type sweeper that is mechanical and he believes it would be better for picking up leaves and branches. He stated that it is smaller but everything would be dumped into a dumpster so it wouldn't create any problems.

Mr. Malysz stated that he knows that there are questions that they will want to get into for the meeting and he will be back for the regular meeting to address these questions. He explained that Mrs. Garry informed him that they have \$700,000 from the riverboat fund that they can spend and the reason they are bringing the resolution to them is because they have an appropriation for it but can't spend it until the council authorizes a specific purpose for the funds. He stated that even if they commit the \$700,000 and spend it towards the purchases addressed tonight, during 2008 they will probably have another \$1.5M in the fund so these acquisitions will not deplete the riverboat fund.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be heard, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Jeff Gahan, President
Common Council, City of New Albany

ATTEST: _____
Marcey Wisman, City Clerk